(a) whether Gutka is a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1851 and if so, the number of licenses granted to manufacture Gutka during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases of manufacture of Gutka that came to the notice of Government for violation of the provision of the aforesaid Act during the same period; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Gutka is not a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Industrial License if not required for manufacture of Gutka.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allowing Higher Export of Onions

3352. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of steep fall in onion prices, Government are considering for increasing the export quantity of onions to neighbouring States; and

(b) if so, the details of any action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) To check the sliding prices of onion and to sustain the production levels by providing adequate price realization to the farmers, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. has started procuring onion w.e.f. 17 April, 2006 from lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon in Maharashtra. Onions so procured, would be exported to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and Mauritius. For this proper marketing, strategy would be adopted by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. which includes grading, reliability, quality and pricing of onions.